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AN EXPERT EXPLAINS THE MEDICAL PROS AND CONS. PAGE 13

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Devastated

Deadly crash. Officials confirmed that 150 passengers were killed when a passenger jet crashed in the French Alps. PAGE 06

Students and well-wishers gather Tuesday in front of the Joseph-Koenig-Gymnasium secondary school in Haltern am See, Germany, where crash victims attended school. / GETTY IMAGES

Council speaker seeks NYPD reform

PAGE 02

Start your own veggie garden with our guide

PAGES 15-18

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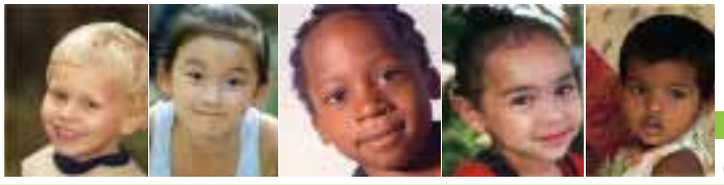

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1 NEWS

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Mark-Viverito: Council on top of NYPD reforms

Accountability. The New York City Council speaker is examining ways to decriminalize certain offenses.

The need for reforming the New York City Police Department and how it works with the communities it protects is just as relevant now as it ever was, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said Tuesday.

"I'm still a reformer. The council is still demanding reforms within the NYPD — that work's not done," she told Metro.

Those reforms, which the speaker previewed in February, include a series of proposals aimed at low-level offenders, trading arrests and jail time for summonses or desk appearance tickets.

"But we still want enforcement," Mark-Viverito said. "Just not necessarily in the most punitive way. People are still being held accountable for their actions."

While there are no bills currently introduced, Mark-Viverito said her office is exploring changes to the law that would decriminalize certain offenses, such as being in a public park after dark or drinking from an open container. Those crimes could instead be treated in civil court and fixed with a fine.

And for those who are arrested and taken to Rikers, the speaker proposed a $1.4 million taxpayer-funded bail fund to help those low-risk New Yorkers who cannot afford to post as little as $500 for minor offenses and can spend up to an average of 24 days in detention.

Mark-Viverito admitted any changes to policing procedure will require lots of negotiating with the NYPD, which she expects to resist changes but said is more amenable now than before.

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said she and Council can still reform policing without antagonizing the NYPD. / HANNAH MATTIX

Quoted

"We had an administration the last time around where both the commissioner and mayor could give two s—s about what the communities were asking for. Deaf ears. Completely. That's not the case now."
Mark-Viverito

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Cold clears for rain, higher temperatures

Spring was in the air on the Brooklyn Bridge on Tuesday. / MILES DIXON, METRO

New York City will escape the unseasonably cold temperatures through the rest of the workweek.

But the brief respite comes with a price — rain showers.

Clouds will move in on Wednesday, with a chance of showers after 1 p.m., said Jay Engle, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Highs Wednesday will be in the mid 40s, with a chance of rain and fog continuing overnight.

Thursday will see temperatures climb to the upper 50s, with a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon.

"With that comes a price — an 80 percent chance of rain, and up to half an inch possible," Engle said.

There's a chance of rain on Friday morning as well, with cloudy skies and temperatures reaching 50 degrees.

The cold snap returns this weekend, with temperatures expected in the 30s on Saturday and Sunday.

Average highs this time of year should be in the low 50s, with lows in the upper 30s, Engle said, adding recent temperatures have been at least 10 degrees below normal.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

NYPD

Cop accused of sex with underage girl

A Bronx cop was arrested Tuesday and charged with the sexual abuse of a 16-year-old girl police said he met at church.

Investigators picked up Officer Vladimir Sosa, 38, a seven-year veteran of the NYPD, in the Bronx's Fordham section around 10 a.m. after the girl's family alerted police about the sexual relationship.

The New York Daily News reported that Sosa had consensual sex with the teen at least three times in the last year, and was found out when her mother found evidence on a cellphone. METRO

Scalded

Cops hunt for java-tossing woman

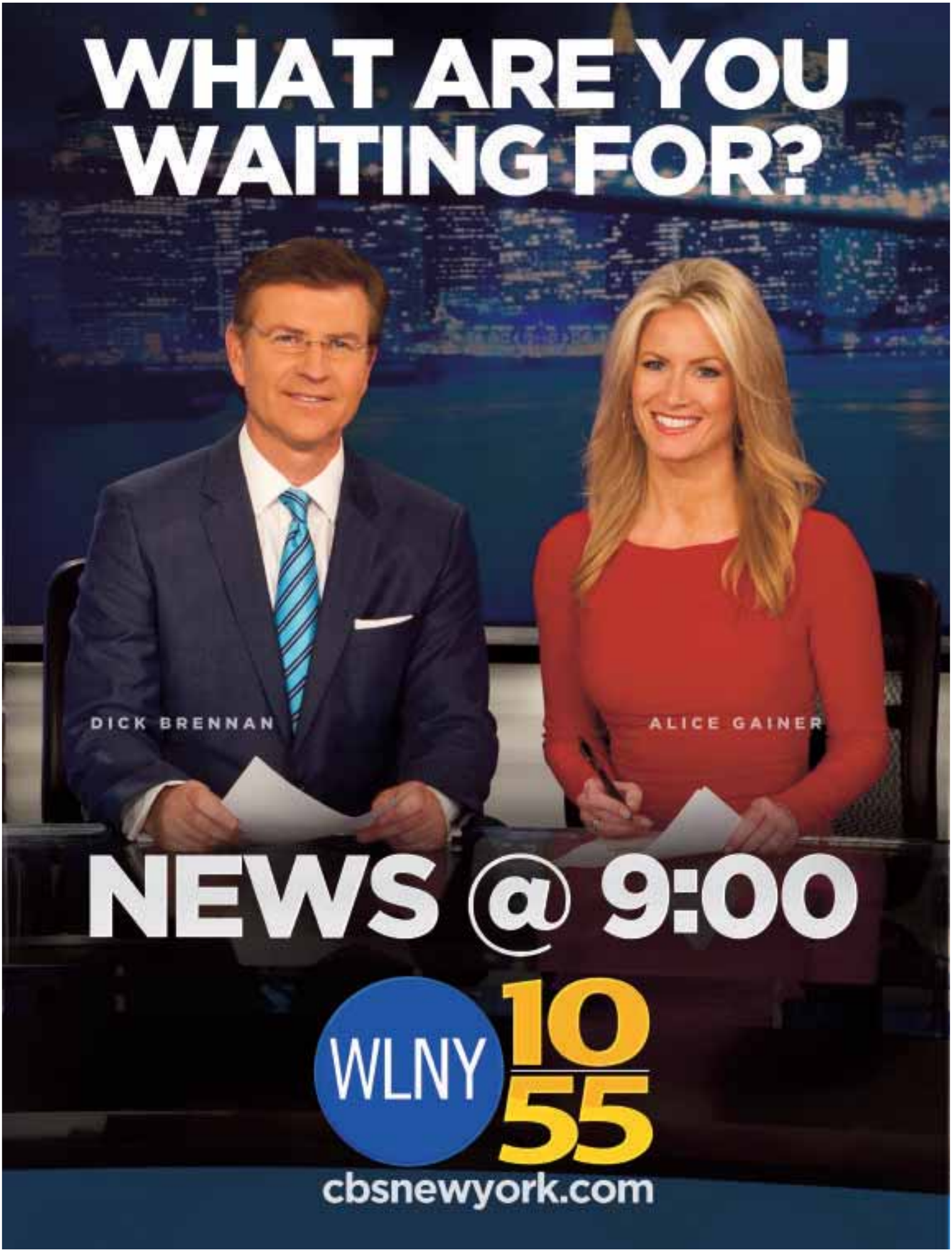
When a Chelsea-bound M23 bus wouldn't stop, a java-toting woman went berserk and tossed a red hot cup of joe into the driver's face when he finally opened the doors.

The 45-year-old MTA driver suffered burns to his face and arms, officials said.

As he pulled away from a stop in Flatiron, the woman began cursing in the street and kicking the bus, in an apparent attempt to get the driver to stop.

At 11 a.m. last Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day, the woman flung the hot coffee at the victim "at the intersection of Broadway and W. 23rd Street," according to a police report.

"The suspect then fled the location," the report said. She was described as "female, white, mid-20's with long hair." METRO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Far Rockaway

Police looking for purse snatchers

Do you recognize these men? / CONTRIBUTED

Police are looking for two men who police say have been violently snatching women's purses in Far Rockaway.

They allegedly attacked a 54-year-old woman on Jan. 27, as well as a 30-year-old woman and a 63-year-old woman on Feb. 3.

Police also say they stole a 43-year-old man's wallet and cellphone on Jan. 31.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS. METRO

Shooting

Man shot to death on Ocean Parkway

A 29-year-old man was shot to death in Coney Island early Tuesday, police said.

Officers responded to 1663 Ocean Parkway just before 7 a.m., and found the man with a gunshot wound to the chest.

The man, whose identity has not yet been released, was pronounced dead at Coney Island Hospital. No arrests have been made. METRO

Ambulance response times slowed in Feb.

Emergencies. FDNY officials said they are beefing up ambulance tours and dispatching workers to slash response times.

Ambulance response times have been lagging recently. / FDNY FACEBOOK

Days after a fire ripped through a Midwood home, killing seven siblings, the FDNY said average response times to life-threatening emergencies increased to 11 minutes and seven seconds last month.

Elizabeth Crowley, chair of the Fire and Criminal Justice Committee, called the continually lagging response times "beyond appalling" during the preliminary budget hearing on Tuesday.

After the hearing, FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro said winter conditions led to the ambulance delays.

Nigro said during the hearing that the department is adding 45 ambulance tours, 149 emergency dispatch workers and 24 lieutenants to cut down on response times.

The FDNY responded to a record high of 1.3 million emergency calls in 2014. At a hearing last month, the FDNY said the average response time was six minutes, 50 seconds, but slower in neighborhoods such as the South Bronx, Western Queens and Staten Island. Mayor Bill de Blasio has included $18 million in his $77.7 preliminary budget to speed up ambulance response times.

Nigro also said during the hearing that this year's class is the "most diverse" in the history of the department, with women and people of color making up 45 percent of the class.

There are 44 women firefighters in the department, and three in the probationary class. Nigro said the numbers will "continue to go up, but will continue to go up slowly."

The FDNY's budget includes a $50 million capital plan to add women's bathrooms in every firehouse. Nigro said 168 have been added, and the remaining 47 bathrooms will be built by the end of 2016.

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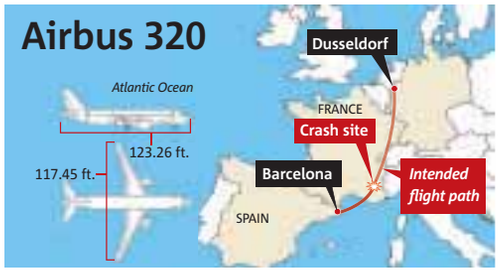
Children among victims of crash over French Alps

Flight recorder. One of the downed plane's black box recorders has been found at the site.



An Airbus operated by Lufthansa's Germanwings budget airline crashed into a mountainside in the French Alps, killing all 150 people on board including 16 schoolchildren.

Germanwings confirmed its flight 4U 9525 from Barcelona to Dusseldorf went down with 144 passengers and six crew on board.

Aerial photos showed smoldering wreckage and a piece of the fuselage with six windows strewn across the steep mountainside cut by ravines.

"We saw an aircraft that had literally been ripped apart, the bodies are in a state of destruction, there is not one intact piece of wing or fuselage," Brice Robin, prosecutor for the city of Marseille, told Reuters after flying over the wreckage in a helicopter.

Germanwings believed 67 Germans had been on the flight. Spain's deputy prime minister said 45 passengers had Spanish names. One Belgian was also aboard.

Also among the victims were 16 children and two teachers from the Joseph-Koenig-Gymnasium high school in the town of Haltern am See in northwest Germany. REUTERS

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Analysis. Aviation consultant says: 'Consider depressurisation as the cause' of French Alps crash

Pilot and aviation consultant Nicolas Coccolo presents his theory on the cause of the Germanwings crash.

Rescuers leave from a field where the rescue effort is headquartered in the southeastern French town of Seyne. / GETTY IMAGES

Can we describe this as a free fall?
No, but the plane seemed to be in a controlled descending procedure. What is particularly striking in this hypothesis is that the pilots didn't send a distress call to the air traffic control. In case of a controlled descent, you are supposed to use the oxygen masks, start the descent and contact the air traffic control.

What could be the cause of this "controlled descent"?
We can assume it was triggered by depressurisation, caused by an excessive air input inside the airplane. It forces the pilots to go down to an altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 meters, where the air becomes breathable again for humans. It's a procedure all pilots know about: They receive special training once a year for this kind of incident. Once it has reached that level, the airplane usually lands at the nearest airport.

What could cause the depressurisation?
This A320 was quite old, so we can easily suspect a crack on one window, even though this is extremely rare. It's also possible that something created a hole in the cockpit.

Why couldn't the pilots stop the descent?
We can imagine that the air supply broke. Despite the presence of oxygen masks, the passengers and air crew could have suffered from hypoxia and fainted. If they ran short on oxygen at that altitude, they probably fainted after less than a minute.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Five things you

1 Islamic State recruits 400 children since January: Syria monitor

Islamic State has recruited at least 400 children in Syria in the past three months and given these so-called "Cubs of the Caliphate" military training and hard-line indoctrination, a monitoring group said on Tuesday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the children, all aged under 18, were recruited near schools, mosques and in public areas where Islamic State carries out killings and brutal punishments on local people.

One such young boy appeared in a video early this month shooting dead an Israeli Arab accused by Islamic State of being as spy. A French police source said the boy might be the half-brother of Mohamed Merah, who killed three soldiers, a rabbi and three Jewish children in Toulouse in 2012.

"They use children because it is easy to brainwash them. They can build these children into what they want. They stop them from going to school and send them to IS schools instead," said Rami Abdulrahman, head of the British-based Observatory.

Islamic State declared a caliphate last year in territory it controls in Syria and Iraq and is being targeted by U.S.-led air strikes in both countries.

SCREENSHOT FROM VIDEO

REUTERS

2 Italian court to rule on Knox conviction in Kercher murder

Italy's highest court will decide to uphold Amanda Knox's conviction for the 2007 murder of Briton Meredith Kercher, potentially sparking an extradition battle with the United States.

Knox and her former boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, were convicted for the second time last year in the killing of Kercher, who was found stabbed to death in a house the women shared in Perugia, central Italy.

Now the Court of Cassation must choose whether to confirm the conviction or order a retrial in the case.

REUTERS

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need to know

US to keep 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through the end of 2015

The United States will maintain its current 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through the end of 2015, the White House said in a statement on Tuesday after President Barack Obama met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

"Based on President Ghani's request for flexibility in the U.S. drawdown timeline, the U.S. will maintain its current posture of 9,800 troops through the end of 2015," the White House said. REUTERS

Ted Cruz to sign up for Obamacare

Republican Senator Ted Cruz, who has vowed to repeal "every word" of Obamacare if elected president next year, will soon be signing up for coverage under the plan.

Cruz, according to reports, had been covered under the health plan of his wife, who is taking a leave from Goldman Sachs to help his campaign.

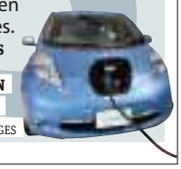
"We will presumably go on the exchange and sign up for health care, and we're in the process of transitioning over to do that," the Texas lawmaker told the Des Moines Register.

Under the Affordable Care Act, members of Congress seeking insurance must sign up through an exchange. REUTERS

Automakers to double the driving range of electric cars

Global automakers are readying a new generation of mass-market electric cars with more than double the driving range of today's Nissan Leaf, betting that technical breakthroughs by big battery suppliers such as LG Chem will jump-start demand and pull them abreast of Tesla Motors.

At least four major automakers — General Motors, Ford, Nissan, and Volkswagen — plan to race Tesla to be first to field affordable electric vehicles that will travel up to 200 miles between charges. REUTERS



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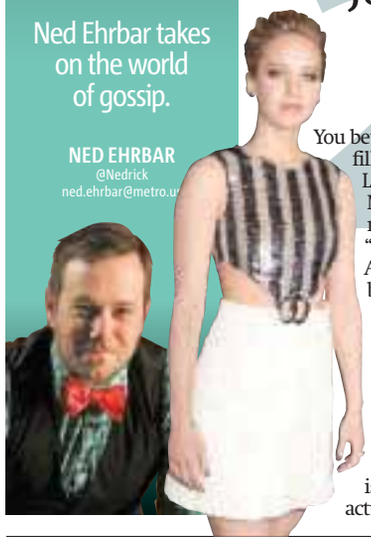

MARIO TESTINO, VOGUE

1 This Vogue shoot may cement your dislike of Young Hollywood

Vogue has tasked veteran photographer Mario Testino with documenting what the magazine insists is the new Brat Pack — Justin Bieber, Kendall Jenner, Ansel Elgort, Gigi Hadid and Hopper and Dylan Penn, the son and daughter of Sean Penn and Robin Wright — in their natural habitat: lounging around a pool and pouting. And the group even gets a catchy new name that only makes them more insufferable: The Instagram Aristocracy. And if the photos of the kids aren't enough to make you want to climb onto an ice floe and float away into the sea, there are also some choice quotes displaying an impressive lack of self-awareness, like when Bieber says he's been "kind of on the low, just working on the new album" lately or how Jenner is "aware when I'm at the gym that I need to save some energy so I can do a 40-yard dash" to avoid the paparazzi.

One thing's for sure: Elgort seems a lot less obnoxious when next to Bieber, so good on him for using that proximity to his advantage. Oh, and Bieber wants the world to know something else: "I'm actually an introvert." Which is about the funniest thing I've heard in a while.

2 Jennifer Lawrence exiting 'X-Men' franchise

You better get your fill of Jennifer Lawrence as Mystique in next year's "X-Men: Age of Apocalypse," because after that, the Oscar winner is putting away her blue body paint and calling it quits with the franchise. "It is my last one, actually, yes," she tells MTV. She, Michael Fassbender and James McAvoy all reportedly signed contracts for three films, and it looks like she's not interested in extending that. Co-star and ex-boyfriend Nicholas Hoult, on the other hand, is open to negotiation. "This is the last one I'm signed up for," Hoult told E! News about playing Beast in the series. "It's a great crew and cast to work with, and he's a fun character. I have a good time playing him, so I'd keep making them."

3 How Julia Roberts hooked Richard Gere for 'Pretty Woman'

It's a good thing Romi and Michelle invented Post-It Notes, because otherwise we might not have "Pretty Woman." Stars Richard Gere and Julia Roberts reunited with director Garry Marshall on the "Today" show to celebrate the film's 25th anniversary, and Gere recounted how meeting Roberts put an end to his waffling about signing on for the project. "We loved each other immediately. It was a nice thing. But to be honest, I didn't know if I was doing this movie yet," Gere remembers.

Garry Marshall, Julia Roberts and Richard Gere / GETTY IMAGES

"[Marshall] calls up and is kind of like, 'How's it going?' And I'm going, 'Yeah, yeah.' ... She's across from the desk, and she takes a piece of paper and she's writing something on it. ... And she turns it around and she pushes it to me and it said, 'Please say yes.'" That piece of paper, Roberts is quick to point out, was a Post-It Note. Is there anything they can't do?

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Understanding Angelina Jolie's brave decision

ANGELINA JOLIE
FILMMAGIC

Health choice. Why the actress had her ovaries removed.

Angelina Jolie made headlines on Monday with news that she had elected to remove her ovaries as a preventative measure against developing ovarian cancer. In 2013, the actress underwent a double mastectomy. The actress wrote op-eds for both surgeries, explaining that she elected to have the procedures because she had a high risk of developing both cancers. We spoke with Dr. Lisa M. Sclafani, director of surgical services at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, for better insight:

What can you tell us about why Angelina Jolie had this procedure?

I see patients like Angelina Jolie because she has inherited the BRCA gene. ... The operation is a way to prevent ovarian cancer by removing the ovaries before you get cancer, although it doesn't completely reduce your risks to zero percent. Patients who get this operation can still get a form of ovarian cancer called primary peritoneal carcinoma.

What are the chances of getting ovarian cancer with the BRCA gene?

For breast cancer, it's quite high. [The] chances of getting ovarian cancer are usually estimated to be 40 to 60 percent. We see a lot of women do this because ovarian cancer is very deadly. Also, almost everyone who gets ovarian cancer is diagnosed at an advanced stage and needs chemotherapy. That's in contrast to breast cancer, where we can do surveillance on patients and often pick it up early before they need chemotherapy. It's very difficult to screen for ovarian cancer.

Pros and cons

What should women be aware of when it comes to this procedure?

You must consider that the benefit of the operation is that you can greatly reduce your risk of getting ovarian cancer. ... The risks are fairly low, but more important are the side effects of going through menopause at a very early age. The average age for menopause now is about 52, and she's 39, so when you take away ovaries, you put the patient into early menopause.

What makes it so difficult to screen for ovarian cancer?

It's difficult because the symptoms can be very vague, and it can become very advanced before the patient has symptoms. The typical screening tests that I believe Ms. Jolie had include ultrasound as well as blood tests — but they're not great tests for picking up early ovarian cancer. It's almost impossible to detect ovarian cancer early.

Is there anything else you would like our readers to know about this procedure?

The procedure of removing one's ovaries is fairly low-risk. It's an outpatient surgery usually, and it has a low complication rate. The long-term consequences are what people are really concerned about. Early menopause can bring on a lot of symptoms: hot flashes and things like premature osteoporosis.

MATT LEE
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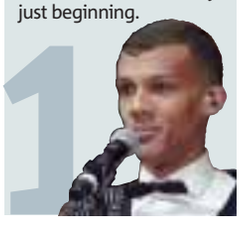
SXSW standouts: Artists to watch

Whether you're a rapper, rock band or aspiring pop star, it's hard to stand out from the 2,000-plus performers at SXSW. Everyone on this list managed to create major buzz with a killer showcase and has big things in the works for 2015.

EMILY LAURENCE
emily.laurence@metro.us

1 Stromae

Stromae is already huge in Europe, but it wasn't until Kanye West remixed the Belgian-born singer's song "Alors On Danse" that we here in the States started paying attention. His music is dance-floor-ready hip-hop, and even though he sings in French, it translates to party music in every language. With a Madison Square Garden show booked for October, the buzz is only just beginning.



2 Bleachers

Lena Dunham's beau Jack Antonoff used SXSW to show that his focus is now primarily on Bleachers, not his other band, Fun. This was the band's first time performing live — they played both scheduled shows and a surprise show — and they killed it every time, proving Bleachers is no longer a side project.

Visit Metro.us to see even more breakthrough artists. / ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

3 Dej Loaf

Not only did Drake publicly claim his love for the Detroit rapper's song "Try Me" on Instagram, she's featured on Eminem's song, "Detroit vs. Everybody." This year is her year.

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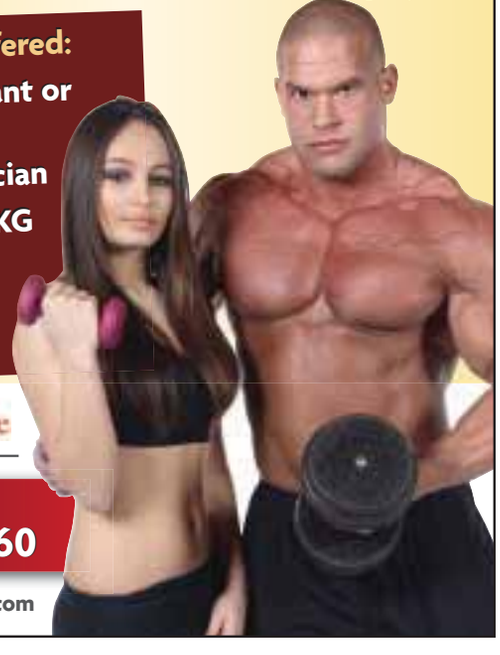
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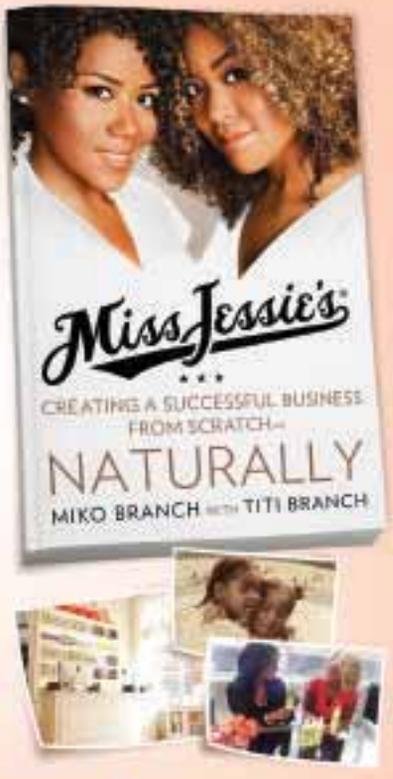
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From seed to plate

"You learn as you go because your plants tell you what they need," says Uliano. ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

Don't let square footage stop you from growing your own veggies.

TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
tina.chadha@metro.us

Now is the time to start planting your tomatoes.

Dream of growing your own tomatoes or zucchini one day? Well, you don't have to wait for a home with a backyard.

At a recent urban garden event by Seeds of Change to announce their grant program — which awards funding to organizations focused on community-based gardening — the topic turned to our own personal vegetable patches.

"You can easily grow vegetables in an apartment or urban setting," insists natural lifestyle expert Sophie Uliano.

"A lot of people think, 'I haven't got any room.' Well, fire escapes, balconies or even a nice, sunny windowsill is perfect."

Uliano, who grew up in the bucolic English countryside before moving to Los Angeles, recommends city dwellers start with these:

Grant

From now through March 30, schools and organizations across the country can apply for 34 grants totaling $200,000 to support new or existing initiatives at Seedsofchangegrant.com.

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Cherry tomatoes

"They're fun to grow, and they grow really quickly," she says. And if you really want to wow friends at your next get-together, the green expert says pot some basil, too. "Add in mozzarella and you've got little hors d'oeuvres — and you've grown them."

Herbs

"Fresh herbs are very expensive. And they come in little plastic packets that don't last very long," says Uliano. Plus, she explains, you hardly ever use the bag up. "You might just need a few leaves for a recipe. So the beauty of growing things like this is you pick what you need."

Greens

"Baby lettuce or microgreens in Whole Foods are super expensive," stresses Uliano. "I love growing greens like arugula because it grows very quickly and you just snip the leaves off, put them in your salad and they'll regrow. It's the gift that keeps on giving."

Growing from seed

Theresa Allan, resident garden expert at Seeds of Change, helps us get started.

When is the best time for those living on the East Coast to start planting veggies and herbs?
You can start cool season crops about four weeks before the last spring frost, which is usually around the first week of May. Warm season crops are often started indoors about four weeks before the last spring frost, then transplanted outside when weather is warm.

- **Cool season crops include:** beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, leeks, lettuces and salad greens, onions, peas, radishes, spinach, turnips
- **Warm season crops to start indoors include:** eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, tomatillos, basil, perennial herbs, perennial and annual flowers

What grows best in containers?
"You can grow nearly anything in a container," says Allan. "We recommend a minimum container size of 3 to 5 gallons, depending on the size of the plant."

Here are her picks for compact varieties specifically for growing in small spaces:

- Bush Champion cucumber
- Maglia Rosa tomato
- Legend tomato
- Oregon Spring tomato
- Tom Thumb pea
- Gold Nugget squash
- Mesclun salad mix
- All lettuce mix
- Mild greens mix
- All lettuce and salad greens
- All peppers
- All herbs

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Ikea gets street cred

So you may never own a Banksy. But Ikea is making sure you can hang a cool piece of street art in your home. The Swedish furniture giant teamed up with 12 street artists from around the world for their Art Event 2015 collection, including "Message in a Bottle" by NEVER-CREW, above. The limited edition posters hit stores on April 1.

TINA CHADHA / PHOTO CREDIT: PROVIDED

Market watch

$27.5M

740 Park Ave. #4/5D

The most expensive property to come onto the market this week is a five-bedroom, five-and-a-half bath co-op in Lenox Hill, marketed by Compass. The unit spans the fourth and fifth floors of the D-line and features 41 windows, 21 closets, private elevator access and an internal marble staircase. The building's residents have a private health club, doorman, concierge, storage and laundry in the building.

$249K

90 La Salle St. #7E

The least expensive property to come onto the market this week is a co-op studio unit located in Morningside Heights, marketed by Keller Williams Realty Landmark. This sunny unit features oversized windows, an eat-in kitchen, four closets and hardwood floors. The building offers a laundry room, bike room, gym, elevator and storage.

StreetEasy.com is a New York based Real Estate information portal that aggregates the most comprehensive set of sale and rental listings along with other useful info.

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Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20 Your open, kind nature will draw many admirers. This is a good time to approach your boss for a raise or a more responsible position.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21 Make the most of your skills and enthusiasm. Don't stick to the same routine. A competition will be the perfect way to have fun.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20 Keep a low profile. You will be overwhelmed by responsibilities. Take a moment to regenerate by engaging in a personal hobby that you find relaxing.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22 Devote your spare time to a successful moneymaking venture. Keep up-to-date on property values so that you are prepared to make a move when the time's right.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Your dynamic personality lends itself to a leadership role. Step to the front of any group or organization you join.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Don't make promises based on what you think someone wants. Be truthful about your emotions; hurt feelings will result otherwise.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 A seminar will be the source of a rewarding friendship. Join a club and you will meet someone with similar interests.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Make some concrete moves toward securing your future. Solid strategies to save money can and should be put into place.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Make a point to expand your current routine and put a healthy plan into motion. If you are happy with the way you look, you will do good things.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You can outmaneuver the competition if you are proactive. Don't wait for someone else to recognize what you have to offer.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Share an optimistic point of view with others. Relationships will benefit from any contribution you make.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 Someone will get the wrong impression. Resentment is likely to surface if you aren't honest. Be clear about where you want to be and what you are willing to do to get there. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	2	3		8		5		1
		8	2		5			
			1			2	8	
3	4	9		6				
				7				
				2		1	3	6
	8	5			4			
			6		3	8		
1		4		9		6	5	

2		9						7
	8				2		1	
5	1	7	8					
	5			2		3		4
			6		4			
1		4		3			9	
					6	9	2	1
	6		2				3	
7						8		6

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

McCain should show more respect

Re: 'McCain to Obama: Get over your temper tantrum' (March 23) Sen. John McCain, carrying water for Israel, with his puerile "get over it" remark, chided President Obama for calling out Bibi Netanyahu upon his duplicitous declarations before and after his election; as if the Israeli leader's snake-like split-tongue remarks regarding Arab and Palestinian homeland aspirations were trifling issues, rather than a half-century struggle. How brazen to reveal his charade: viewing the negotiating world community as suckers one day, and then apologizing the next day.
ART BURNS, VIA EMAIL

Meat's true origins

Re: 'Meaty issue' (Metro, March 24) Thank you to reader Bill Heinstadt for reminding us of the horrible realities of factory farming. If anyone did to a kitten or puppy what's being done every day to chickens, pigs and cows, they'd be rightly branded sadistic and heartless, and would certainly be arrested. You may still choose to eat meat, but pull your head out of the sand first and learn the truth about its production. There are plenty of very convincing meatless substitutes — give 'em a try!
RICH FEINBERG, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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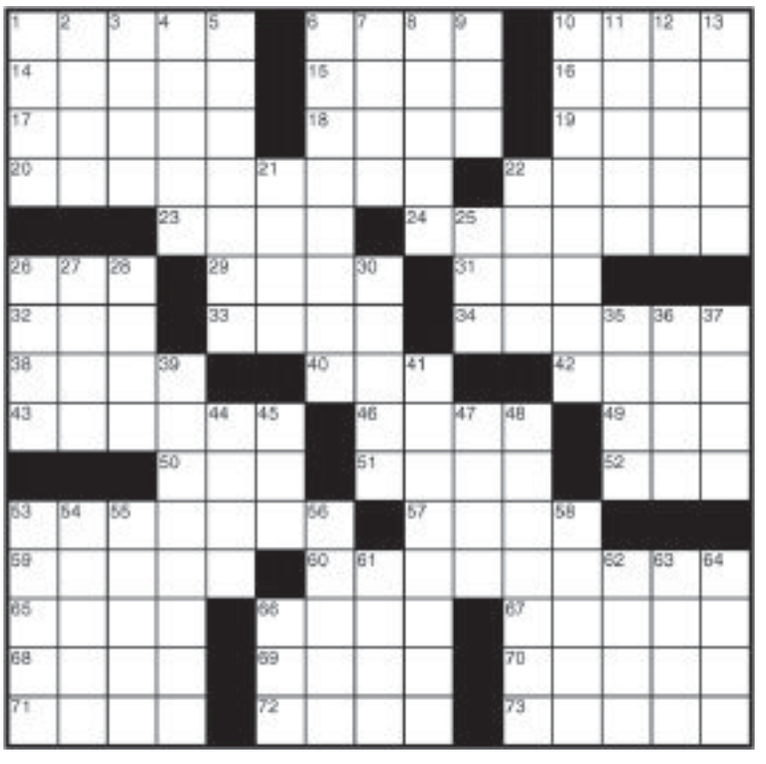
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

Across
1 Seafood garnish
6 Part of CD
10 Footfall
14 Came around
15 Job-safety org.
16 Pretend to be
17 Hindu kingdom
18 Uniform
19 A law — itself
20 Lord — (Tarzan)
22 Groom carefully
23 Carnaby Street locale
24 Mocks or knocks
26 Twitch
29 Leaf juncture
31 Carioca's home
32 Famous numero
33 Took legal action
34 Talisman
38 — monster
40 Umbrella spoke
42 Eighteen-wheeler
43 Pony pad
46 Beach sidler
49 Point
50 Make candles
51 Poop out
52 Rx givers
53 Shogun's warriors
57 Zenith
59 Site
60 Broths
65 Settled down
66 Play charades
67 Snake plate
68 Beaujolais, e.g.
69 Greenspan
70 Like a wolf's howl
71 Must-have
72 Rookie
73 Faked out the goalie

Down
1 Ger. or Fr.
2 Aquarius' tote
3 Be gloomy
4 Rubber-stamps
5 Wrestling holds
6 Well-meaning sort (hyph.)
7 Ms. Dinesen
8 Destroy a document
9 Hack
10 Bogus
11 Firmed up, as muscles
12 Helena rival
13 Unskilled workers
21 Quaker pronoun
22 Strait-laced
25 Epoch
26 Barge pushers
27 Monogram pt.
28 Burger mate
30 Royal decree
35 Soft metal
36 Mideast VIP
37 Reid and Holt
39 Took hostage
41 "Achtung Baby" producer (2 wds.)
44 Onetime Trevi Fountain coins
45 Cabinet dept.
47 Orbit segments
48 Perplexed
53 Lay upstream
54 Kate's sitcom friend
55 Coon cat origin
56 With no warmth
58 Banquet host
61 Sharif of the movies
62 "— my words!"
63 Newsman — Abel
64 Future flower
66 Bathroom item

Yesterday's answer



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3 SPORTS

NFL

Smith will start, for now

Jets head coach Todd Bowles said Tuesday that Geno Smith will be the team's starting quarterback when training camp opens. "Geno's been here a year, so obviously he's going to start off going into it," Bowles said. "With Ryan [Fitzpatrick] being injured, when we get to training camp [Smith] is going to get the first-team reps. He's the only quarterback we have right now if we don't draft one."

Big names in big games

NCAA. The Sweet 16 isn't for the "little guy" this year as it features plenty of star power.

Cinderella has left the ball after dominating the NCAA Tournament opening. Those who remain in the field imposed their will, fought through adversity and seized victory. The names have changed but the schools left standing are comprised of the Blue Bloods of the hardwood. Fourteen of the 16 schools left have advanced to a Final Four in their history. Collectively, they have made a staggering 107 trips. Only Xavier and Gonzaga are working toward their maiden voyage. The Sweet 16 kicks off Thursday night. A look ahead:

LEIGH KLEIN
@LeighAlanKlein
sports@metro.us

Visit **Metro.us** to see the full TV schedule for the NCAA tourney.

Power programs

This Sweet 16 features: the top two candidates for the No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft in Jahlil Okafor and Karl-Anthony Towns. All-time great college basketball guards: Gonzaga's Kevin Pangos, Wichita's Fred Van Vleet and Arizona's T.J. McConnell. And the Coaching Legends of March: Hall of Fame coaches Mike Krzyzewski, Rick Pitino, John Calipari and Tom Izzo.

Coaching college basketball is much like a horse race. Some coaches struggle to get out of the gate and can never recover. Others can't avoid interference. The good coach rides his colts like an experienced jockey, navigating each turn in each trial of the season to build endurance for this stretch run. It looks like Calipari has the mount on Secretariat. After winning a slugfest against Cincinnati, Kentucky faces another aggressive team in West Virginia. Mountaineer coach Bob Huggins is 8-2 lifetime over Calipari, including a victory in the Elite Eight in 2010.

KARL-ANTHONY TOWNS AND KENTUCKY WILL MEET WEST VIRGINIA. GETTY IMAGES

T.J. MCCONNELL GETTY IMAGES

Get to know: T.J. McConnell

The best player in the NCAA tournament that no one is talking about is T.J. McConnell of Arizona. The guy impacts the game in so many different ways. His on-ball defense is tremendous, his leadership is phenomenal and he's become a true facilitator.

Cat Barber and NC State are still dancing. / GETTY IMAGES

Keep an eye on: NC State

North Carolina State faces a Louisville team that it has beaten earlier this season. Offensively, NC State has developed a balanced attack with perimeter scorers and frontcourt contributors. The Wolfpack backcourt is playing at a high level. Anthony "Cat" Barber gave Louisville all types of problems in their last meeting and now Barber is at a higher level.

Can anyone beat Kentucky?

Kentucky could see Wichita State in the Elite 8. Kentucky eliminated them last year with Aaron Harrsion's game-ending dagger. The Shockers don't have the frontcourt depth to match the 'Cats but with Kentucky battling fatigue after a 40-minute track race with WVU, a game Wichita State team with a score to settle is a real threat to the perfect season.

Kentucky remains unblemished. / GETTY IMAGES

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ST. JOHN'S SHOULDN'T CAN LAVIN JUST YET

Steve Lavin, the embroiled St. John's basketball coach on the hot seat despite another winning season and another trip to the NCAA Tournament, deserves at least one more chance to go dancing. But with the paranoia surrounding the Johnnies program, and the inflated sense of self-regard that exists with St. John's fans and the pecking order of the basketball team in terms of national perception, Lavin's future is in doubt. The ultimate glory days are gone, but Lavin should receive credit for making this program not just respectable but viable. A buyout that amounts to firing is not the answer.

The Red Storm have disappointed this year, the critics say. This despite a 21-12 record that saw them book a trip the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2011. In doing so, the program was the only prominent team from the tristate area to go to the Madness, underscoring the accomplishment of Lavin to get his team in there.

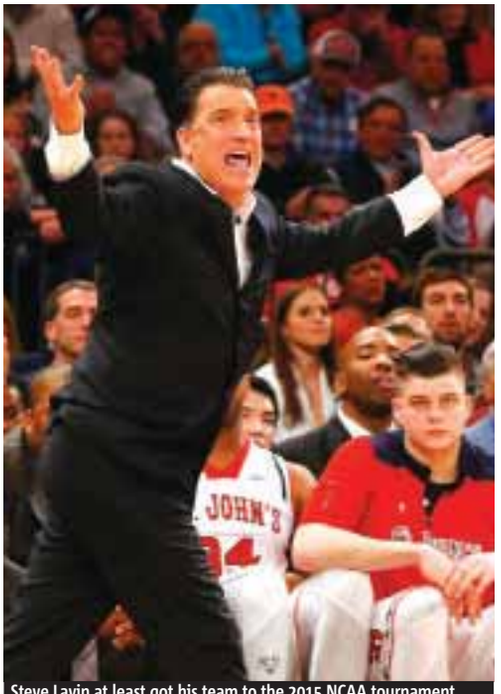
And considering that the program has made the NCAA tournament just four times since 2000 (officially three times with the vacated appearance of 2002), St. John's should actually be talking stability for Lavin and not possible termination. With New York City prep basketball in a recent slump, Lavin's job of recruiting is made far more difficult than years ago when the area owned the deepest pool of talent in the nation.

What Lavin has done is consistently bring a winner to Madison Square Garden, something not exactly seen on the hardcourts of Manhattan in recent years. His teams may have "underachieved," including this year's group that on paper should have been a Top 25 program. But they still win more games than they lose, and that says something.

In four of their five seasons under Lavin, St. John's has had a winning record and made the postseason.

In the previous seven seasons before "Lavinwood" arrived in New York City, St. John's had four seasons of losing records and they didn't have an NCAA Tournament appearance.

With a solid recruiting class coming in, highlighted Brandon Sampson, a shooting guard who is a member of the ESPN 100, the cupboard isn't exactly bare. Lavin has built a decent team, and he deserves at least one more year to see this thing through.



Steve Lavin at least got his team to the 2015 NCAA tournament, something few area teams could say. / GETTY IMAGES

Opinion

KRISTIAN DYER
@KRISTIANRDYER

NBA power rankings | by James Toscano

No. 1

Warriors (57-13)

Six straight wins for the NBA's best team, including the most recent 107-76 shellacking over the Washington Wizards.

No. 2

Hawks (53-17)

Three straight losses and five losses in their last nine games. They are still going to finish with the top seed in the East, however.

No. 3

Rockets (47-26)

James Harden had his eighth 40-point game of the season on Monday, the third-most in franchise history.

No. 4

Cavaliers (46-26)

"Hey, Kevin! Take this picture of me and my friends! Oh, and you can't sit at our table. Loser." — LeBron James to Kevin Love after a game.

No. 5

Grizzlies (50-21)

Three straight wins and five out of six, but let's see where they're at next week after facing the Cavs, Warriors and Spurs.

No. 6

Clippers (46-25)

The Clippers' 5.6 point differential is actually second-best in the entire NBA (10.7). The bad news is Jamal Crawford could be done for the season (calf).

No. 7

Blazers (44-24)

The Blazers are dealing with some injuries right now, including one to LaMarcus Aldridge's thumb.

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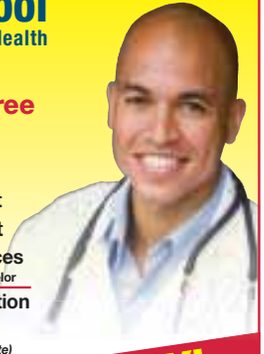

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Pack your own lunch instead of going out. $6 saved a day x 5 days a week x 10 years x 6% interest = $19,592. That could be money in your pocket. Small changes today. Big bucks tomorrow. Go to feedthepig.org for savings tips.

Ad Council AICPA FOUNDATION

THE MORE YOU BUY, **THE MORE MACY'S MONEY YOU GET!**

USE IT ON TOP OF COUPONS & SALE PRICES! EVEN ON OUR BEST BRANDS—INCLUDING COSMETICS & FRAGRANCES!

USE YOUR MACY'S MONEY ONLINE OR IN-STORE WED, APRIL 8-TUES, APRIL 14

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: SHOP IN-STORE NOW-MON, MAR. 30

SPEND†:	GET:
$50-74.99	$10
$75-99.99	$15
$100-149.99	$20
$150-199.99	$30
$200 & MORE	$40

†SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS.

HAPPY SPRING SALE

EXTRA 10%-20% OFF†† WHEN YOU USE YOUR MACY'S CARD.

††EXCLUSIONS APPLY; SEE BELOW.

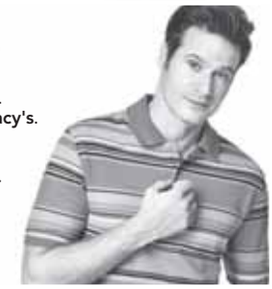
30% TO 50% OFF
DESIGNER SUITING
Reg. $95-$650.
Sale 47.50-$325.
Suits, suit separates, sportcoats and more.
★1285372.

40% OFF
DRESS SHIRTS
Reg. 69.50-$75.
Sale 41.70-$45.
From Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger and more.
★1867198.

25% TO 40% OFF
SPORTSWEAR
Reg. 24.50-99.50.
Sale 14.70-74.63.
From our Style & Co., Charter Club and Alfani; plus The Mixing Room. Misses & petites.
★1850521. Women's prices slightly higher.

25% TO 50% OFF
KIDS' APPAREL
Reg. $12-$84.
Sale $9-$42.
From our Epic Threads; Carter's and more. Girls' 2-16; boys' 2-20 & infants' 3-24 mos.
★1900193.

SALE 24.99
POLOS
Reg. 32.50.
Only at Macy's.
From Club Room.
★1821154.



25% OFF
IMPULSE DRESSES
Reg. 59.50-$169.
Sale 44.63-126.75.
From Kensie, our Maison Jules; more. Misses.

BUY 1, GET 50% OFF 2ND
SELECT BRAS
1st, reg. $33-$42 ea.
2nd, sale 16.50-$21 ea.
From Bali® and more.
Shown: Bali® Comfort Revolution. ★790931.

30% TO 40% OFF
HANDBAGS
Reg. $20-$169.
Sale $14-118.30.
From our Giani Bernini; Anne Klein, Nine West & more.
★805143.

SALE 39.99-49.99
SHOES
Reg. $49-$90.
From our Material Girl; Anne Klein, XOXO, Aerosoles, more. For example: our Material Girl Havic.
★1902689.

50% OFF + EXTRA SAVINGS
EXTRA 30% OFF WHEN YOU BUY 3 OR MORE, EXTRA 25% OFF 2, EXTRA 20% OFF 1
Reg. $100-$700.
Final cost $50-$350.
All boxed fine jewelry.

OR, TAKE AN EXTRA 15% OR 10% OFF**

when you use your savings pass during our Happy Spring Sale. **Exclusions apply, see pass.

★macy's **WOW!** PASS
EXTRA SAVINGS ON SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL (EXCEPT SPECIALS & SUPER BUYS)

EXTRA 15% OFF

SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL FOR HIM, HER & KIDS PLUS HOME ITEMS
EXTRA 10% OFF SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE SHOES, COATS, SUITS, DRESSES, INTIMATES, SWIM FOR HER; SUIT SEPARATES & SPORTCOATS FOR HIM; ELECTRICS/ELECTRONICS & WATCHES
Also excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), Doorbusters, Deals of the Day, fine & fashion jewelry, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, men's store electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic apparel, shoes & accessories; Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, New Era, Nike on Field, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services. Exclusions may differ at macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer except opening a new Macy's account.
EXTRA SAVINGS % APPLIED TO REDUCED PRICES.
MACYS.COM PROMO CODE: SPRING EXCLUSIONS MAY DIFFER ON MACYS.COM

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VALID 3/25-3/29/2015

TEXT "CPN" TO 62297 TO GET COUPONS, SALES ALERTS & MORE!
Max 3 msgs/wk. Msg & data rates may apply. By texting CPN from my mobile number, I agree to receive marketing text messages generated by an automated dialer from Macy's to this number. I understand that consent is not required to make a purchase. **Text STOP to 62297 to cancel. Text HELP to 62297 for help.** Terms & conditions at macys.com/mobilehelp Privacy policy at macys.com/privacypolicy

30% OFF
KEURIG 2.0 + BONUS
Reg. 219.99-259.99.
Sale 149.99-169.99.
From left: K350 (★1494078) & K450 (★1494079).
Bonus $20 mail-in** Macy's gift card.

SALE 39.99
CUSTOMER FAVORITE
TWIN SHEET SET
Reg. $70.
Only at Macy's.
Charter Club 500-thread count pima cotton in damask stripes or solid colors.
★709743.

FREE SHIPPING + FREE RETURNS AT MACYS.COM! FREE SHIPPING WITH $99 PURCHASE. FREE RETURNS BY MAIL OR IN-STORE. U.S. ONLY. EXCLUSIONS APPLY; SEE MACYS.COM FOR DETAILS.

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Fine jewelry available at stores that carry fine jewelry. One Macy's gift card per customer, per offer. Free item must be of equal or lesser value than purchased item. Returns must include purchased and free items. ➤ REG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES AND SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. HAPPY SPRING SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 3/25-3/29/2015, EXCEPT AS NOTED. ‡All carat weights (ct. t.w.) are approximate; variance may be .05 carat. **Allow 6-8 weeks for shipping of Macy's gift card; all returned merchandise must include the bonus gift card. Jewelry photos may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macys.com for locations. Almost all gemstones have been treated to enhance their beauty and require special care, log on to macys.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Extra savings taken off already reduced prices, "final cost" prices reflect extra savings. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's and selection may vary by store. Prices and merchandise may differ at macys.com. Electric items shown carry warranties; to see a manufacturer's warranty at no charge before purchasing, visit a store or write to: Macy's Warranty Dept., PO Box 1026 Maryland Heights, MO 63043, attn Consumer Warranties. N5020127.

➤††**USE YOUR MACY'S CARD** & take an **extra 20% off** select sale & clearance apparel for him, her & kids, or; **extra 15% off** select sale & clearance shoes, coats, suits, dresses, intimates, swim for her; suit separates & sportcoats for him & home items; or, **extra 10% off** select sale & clearance watches and electrics/electronics. **EXCLUDES**: Everyday Values (EDV), Doorbusters, Deals of the Day, specials, super buys, fine & fashion jewelry, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, men's store electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic apparel, shoes & accessories; Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, New Era, Nike on Field, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services. Exclusions may differ at macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer except opening a new Macy's account. SAVINGS % APPLIED TO REDUCED PRICES. EXTRA SAVINGS VALID THROUGH 3/29/15.

➤ †**HOW MACY'S MONEY WORKS:** For any single in-store transaction* of $50 or more you make from 3/25-3/30/15, we'll give you a $10 (spend $50-74.99), $15 (spend $75-99.99), $20 (spend $100-149.99), $30 (spend $150-199.99) or $40 (spend $200 or more) Macy's Money Reward Card at the register. *EXCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PURCHASES: fine jewelry, gift cards, macys.com, Buy Online Pick up in-Store, services & fees, sales tax, macybed, furniture phone sales, lease depts, Espot, restaurants. USE YOUR MACY'S MONEY REWARD CARD from 4/8-4/14/15. May not be: redeemed for cash, used to purchase Macy's gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your credit card account. If a purchase used to accumulate Macy's Money is returned, Macy's reserves the right to void the Macy's Money Reward card or reduce the corresponding value. For more information, go to macys.com/macysmoney